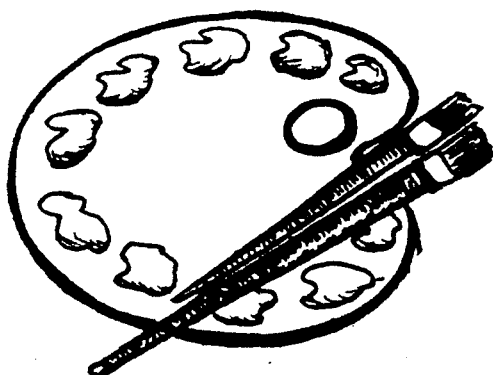


## COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES



The Mona Lisa painted by Leonardo da Vinci is probably the most popular painting in the history of western art. Many people have speculated about this beautiful woman. Her lovely eyes and mysterious smile have inspired musicians and poets.

No one is quite sure what she is thinking about. It is recorded that da Vinci hired musicians and jesters to entertain Lisa del Giocondo while she posed. But the reliability of this story is questioned. All we really know is that the painting was begun in 1503 and finished in 1507.

The famous portrait of a Florentine Merchant's third wife hangs in the Louvre in Paris, France. Thousands of visitors stand entranced as they see this celebrated lady and wonder what she is thinking about to make her smile.

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1. The best title for this selection is:
  - (a) The Mysterious Woman
  - (b) Da Vinci's Art
  - (c) The Mona Lisa
  - (d) Lisa del Giocondo
2. The most spectacular characteristic of the Mona Lisa is her:
  - (a) hair color
  - (b) costume
  - (c) appearance
  - (d) wealth
3. The Mona Lisa was painted in the:
  - (a) 1400's
  - (b) 1500's
  - (c) 1600's
  - (d) 1700's
4. Today one can find the Mona Lisa in:
  - (a) Da Vinci's home
  - (b) the Florence Art Museum
  - (c) the London Museum
  - (d) the Louvre
5. As a result of da Vinci's great talent, people have:
  - (a) learned much about the life of Lisa del Giocondo
  - (b) flocked to see the Mona Lisa painting
  - (c) become very interested in Florentine life.
  - (d) found out the details surrounding the painting of the Mona Lisa
6. Entranced in this story means:
  - (a) put in a trance
  - (b) carried away with wonder or delight
  - (c) enslaved
  - (d) imprisoned
7. The Mona Lisa is so widely known today because of:
  - (a) Lisa del Giocondo's importance
  - (b) Leonardo de Vinci's talent
  - (c) its placement in a famous museum
  - (d) what musicians and poets have done
8. From this story we would think that art masterpieces are:
  - (a) easy to paint
  - (b) produced very frequently
  - (c) difficult and time consuming
  - (d) usually of important persons